ment have announced suspension of export cess on pepper till 30-9-1993.

(iii) Educating the farmers to upgrade the quality of pepper through scientific post harvest processing for improving quality and promoting export.

Impact of Acceptance of Dunkel's Proposals on New Drug Policy

544. SHRI S. S. SURJEWALA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what would be the impact of acceptance of the Dunkel's proposals on the New Drug Policy enumerated by Government;

(b) whether it is a fact that the acceptance of the proposal would retard the growth of the Domestic Pharmaceuticals Industries;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Dunkel Proposals would result in drastic reduction in export trade in the field of Drugs and Pharmaceuticals; and

(d) whether the prices of the common Drugs would shoot up manifolds in the event of acceptance of these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFARIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (d) Acceptance of the Dunkel proposals would imply that the manufacture of drugs patented after the Agreement comes into effect, could be taken up only by the patent holder or his licencee. The manufacture and marketing of drugs already in the market or patented before the Agreement comes into effect would not be affected.

If India signs the TRIPs Agreement it is anticipated that the impact in respect of exports will be limited to new drugs, and to countries which are not providing patent protection for drugs. The number of such countries is dwingling.

Medicines covered by product patents would tend to have higher prices than those not covered by patents because of the exclusive rights granted under the patent system. It is however, not possible to quantify precisely the extent of price rise that may result from the patent system because this would depend on various factors like, availability of alternative non-patented medicines, the nature and extent of the demand for the medicine, price control mechanism, etc. As for the likely general impact on prices of medicines, it may be stated that about 10-15% of the total production of drugs in the country would at best be covered by product patents granted in other countries.

International Pepper Community Conference

545. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY
SHRI K. K. VEERAPPAN:
Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India participated in the International Pepper Community Conference; if so, the sponsor of this conference and when the conference took place and where;

(b) the names of the Indian representatives in the conference alongwith the deliberation made by the conference;

(c) whether the conference took any decision; if so, the details thereof;

(d) what was India's stand in the conference on the various issues;

(e) what has been the outcome of the conference since then whether India have achieved any tangible results in the World Pepper Market; and

(f) whether any policy decision has been taken by Government to help Indian farmers to receive remunerative price in the market; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir. Indian participated in the 21st session of the International Pepper Community (IPC) and related meetings at Bali, Indonesia during 7-11 June, 1993.

(b) Shri Ashok Kumar, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Plenipoteniary Representative of India, Shri T. Nadakumar, Chairman, Spices Board and Shri N. G. Panicker, exporter attended the meetings.

(c) IPC member-countries took stock of the global situation of production, consumption and marketing of pepper and considered various possibilities of arresting the decline in pepper prices. Two strategies were discussed, namely a Voluntary Stock Retention Scheme by

producing countries and the possibility of having future trading in pepper in Kuala Lumpur Commodity Exchange. The member-countries felt that it would be necessary to have a detailed study before a decision could be taken on either of these strategies.

(d) India supported the need for taking effective steps to increase the earnings of the farmers and also the member countries foreign exchange. However, on the specifics of the Voluntary Retention Scheme, India felt that this can be effective only if all producing countries, irrespective of whether they are members of IPC or not, agree to implement this scheme honestly and sincerely. As regards the commodity exchange at Kuala Lampur, since this may not be of much benefit to India, our position was that this issue needs to be studied in detail before a commitment can be made.

(e) IPC is a forum for the major pepper producing countries to periodically exchange information on programmes and policies followed by them relating to production, consumption and marketing of pepper and to coordinate their national efforts and obtain the benefits of cooperation in the area of production, research and marketing. In addition to India, Indonesia, Malaysia and Brazil who have been members of IPC for a long time, Thailand, Sri Lanka and Micronesia have also now joined the Community.

It is perhaps relevant that soon after the Conference compiled and released the global production figures of pepper (which are lower than those of previous year), there has been a marginal increase in prices of pepper in the international market.

(f) Government have already made a market intervention to the extent of procuring 3000 tonnes of pepper through NAFED and Kerala State Co-operative Marketing Federation at a price of Rs. 33 per kg.

Diesel Oil Subsidy to Deep-Sea Fishing Vessels

546. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what steps MPEDA propose to take to increase the present rate of diesel oil subsidy to deep-sea fishing vessels;

(b) whether a special scheme is proposed to be formulated to enhance such subsidies to sick marine fishing units under rehabilitation; and

(c) the steps being taken to assist the marine fishing sector by MPEDA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) There is no such proposal.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The following strategies are being adopted to assist Indian seafood industry and to boost export earnings:

(i) Development of deep-sea fishing and diversified fishing for stepping up export production;

(ii) Stepping up production by culture fisheries;

(iii) Induction of new technology and value addition;

(iv) Modernisation of processing facilities, quality upgradation and waste reduction; and

(v) Agressive market promotion measures.

Plan to Export Agriculture Production

547. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: SHRI S. S. SURJEWALA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plan to export wheat, rice, cotton, sugar and other agricultural produce during the current year or in the future years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what price the above-mentioned foodgrain/items are expected to fetch in the international market;

(d) whether Government propose to allow the farmers to have licences to export their own produce; and

(e) whether Government propose to import any of the items mentioned in part (a) of the question during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINIS-